Warden Message – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

Chicago Military and Overseas Voters, Register and Request your ballot for the Upcoming Election January 10, 2011

From the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP):

On February 22, 2011, the City of Chicago will conduct its Municipal General Election. Voters will cast ballots to elect the following:

- -- Mayor
- -- City Clerk
- -- City Treasurer
- -- Alderman in each of the City's 50 Wards
- -- Any local referenda questions that qualify for the ballot

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot Now

To vote in this election you must submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) in January of 2011. You will not get a ballot automatically, even if you voted in the November 2, 2010 general election. Note: In Illinois, no witness or notary is necessary for the FPCA application.

To check your registration status, visit: www.chicagoelections.com/voterinfo.php

Monday, January 24, 2011 is the deadline to register to vote for this Election. Go to <u>FVAP.gov</u> and get started! It only takes a few minutes. Alternately you may obtain an FPCA from your unit or installation voting assistance officer and at U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide, but you must follow the Illinois instructions given at <u>FVAP.gov</u> when completing this form. Indicate on the FPCA how you would like to receive your absentee ballot, mail, email, or fax.

If you are in the military or if you are already registered to vote, the deadline for submitting an FPCA is 10 days before the election: Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011.

Although Illinois allows you to email or fax the FPCA, you must also submit it by mail.

If you choose to email your FPCA, you should send the form as a signed, scanned attachment. Email directly to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners at fpca@chicagoelections.com.

If you choose to fax your FPCA, fax the form directly to the Chicago City Board of Election Commissioners at 312-263-3649. You may also use the DoD Electronic Transmission Service to fax your FPCA toll-free. To use the Electronic Transmission Service, use the cover sheet available in the Voting Assistance Guide or at FVAP.gov, and fax to: (703)-693-5527, DSN 223-5527, or toll-free from the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to 1-800-368-8683. International toll-free numbers can be found at FVAP.gov.

Mail your FPCA to:

Chicago City Board of Election Commissioners 69 W. Washington, Suite 600 Chicago, IL 60602

Download Your Ballot

Ballots will be mailed and emailed starting on January 8, 2011.

Vote Your Ballot

The voted ballot must be sent or **postmarked by Feb. 21, 2011** and received by March 8 in order to be counted.

You must return the voted ballot and signed affidavit by mail or by sending it via a licensed motor carrier such as Federal Express, UPS or DSL.

Civilians residing outside the U.S.: Contact your closest U.S. Embassy or consulate for specific instructions on how voted ballots, with proper domestic postage attached, can be returned to the United States from any U.S. embassy or consulate. To locate your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, visit http://www.usembassy.gov/.

To check the status of your absentee ballot visit: www.chicagoelections.com/voterinfo.php?language type=en.

Additional information:

For more information, visit FVAP at: www.fvap.gov.

If you would like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact FVAP at www.fvap.gov, 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at: www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreephone.html. With your feedback, we can make this even more helpful for the next election.

Helpful links:

Federal Voting Assistance Program: http://www.fvap.gov/

National Voter Registration form: http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx

U.S. Election Assistance Commission: http://www.eac.gov

Overseas Vote Foundation: https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/

OVF on Twitter: http://twitter.com/ythvoteoverseas

OVF in Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Vote-overseas/110570138939

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to enroll with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u>.

U.S. citizens should consult the <u>Country Specific Information</u> for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the <u>Department's website</u>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone number for American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (011 593-2) 398-5200. Appointments for ACS are available through our website.

The <u>U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil</u> is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or 232-1152 for afterhours emergencies.

Anyone can follow the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador through the <u>Embassy website</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.